(d) the quantity of diesel wasted month-wise and monetary loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Instructions on Indian Railways already exist for shutting down Diesel locomotives whenever expected detention is 30 minutes or more.

(b) Yes, sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its Report No. 8 of 2004 (Railways) has highlighted violation of this protocol on two Zonal Railways, but the Railway has contended otherwise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Research and Development by Railways

1914. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN : Will the Minsiter of RAILWAY? be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research and Development wing of Railways has developed any indigenous equipment or innovation in technology in the recent years;

(b) if so, to what level the contribution of the research work will enhance the performance of Railways and also minimise the expenditure; and

(c) the details regarding the funds allocated for the R&D work during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research work contributes towards continuous improvement in enhancing the performance of Railways and also minimising expenditure by continuously improving the reliability and maintainability of Railways assets, improving safety of train operations, increasing operational efficiency and also saving by way of import substitution.

(c) the funds allocated to Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under Demand No. 16 - Plan-head "Railway

Research" in the last 5 years are given below:—

Year	Fund Allocated-Budget Grant (In Crores of Rs.)
1999-2000	10.00
2000-01	10.00
2001-02	10.00
2002-03	20.00
2003-04	10.00

Recruitment of minorities in Railways

†1915. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of employees from minorities was 22 per cent in the Railways at the time of independence, which has now reduced to 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide reservation to the minorities in the recruitment in Railways and if so, the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The representation Minorities in Railway services is approximately 5.70% as on 31.3.2003. The representation is less mainly due to the fact that less number of candidates are appearing in the Examinations/Selections in response to the vacancies rotified as compared to the other category candidates.

(c) The Ministry of Railways have no plans to provide reservation for Minorities in Railway services. However, to ensure that there is no discrimination in selections of such candidates, one member belonging to minority community is included in the recruitment committees.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.